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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DAR ES SALAAM 000832

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DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E

E.O. 12958: 4/25/15

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [TZ](#)

SUBJECT: Tanzania Elections Update

Classified by Pol-Econ Chief Judy Buelow for reason
1.4(b)

REF: A) Dar es Salaam 801 B) Dar es Salaam 772, C)
Dar es Salaam 732, D) Dar es Salaam 711 and previous

1. (C) Summary: The next week or so will see several decisive developments in voter registration, nomination of candidates and preparation for the October elections in Tanzania and on Zanzibar. The following is a round up of the most recent developments. End Summary.

Voter Registration Draws to a Close on Zanzibar . .

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2. (U) To compensate for the irregularities and political interference that marred voter registration in Zanzibar's Urban West Region, the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) extended voter registration beyond the original April 22 end date. Voter registration continued through the April 26 National Day holiday. The ZEC has not exercised its option to extend registration even further, so it would seem that it is satisfied that every Zanzibari who wanted to register has now had a chance to do so. Some CCM partisans complained anonymously to the press about the extension; they seemed particularly incensed that the ZEC invited the people who had been denied registration to file a form 2-D? and appeal the denial.

. . . and on the mainland

3. (U) Meanwhile, the National Electoral Commission (NEC) was also finishing up with its much larger, but less politically sensitive project to register voters on the Tanzanian mainland. Reports from Embassy FSNs registering to vote in Dar es Salaam varied widely. Several FSNs said that registration was quick and easy, and that they were required to show little, if any, documentation to demonstrate their eligibility. One FSN reported waiting times lasting up to nine hours at a chaotic registration center in Dar es Salaam. Most registration problems on the mainland apparently stemmed from problems with organization, in contrast to highly polarized Zanzibar, where everything is political. The final phase of both registration exercises began April 27, when the NEC went to Zanzibar to register those Tanzanian voters ?- perhaps a few thousand in all -- who are eligible to vote in national elections, but who have not lived in the isles long enough to be eligible to register with the ZEC.

The Diplomatic Group Plans no Meetings, for Now

4. (C) Heads of mission from the Diplomatic Group did not meet formally with political leaders on the margin of National Day events to discuss their support for the ZEC's efforts to conduct voter registration. (See reftel A.) The diplomats had originally planned to deliver their eleven point message to Home Affairs Minister Mapuri and to CCM Secretary General Phillip Mangula. However, given

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the crowds of political leaders and diplomats converging on Dodoma April 26, and the press of internal CCM business, it was impractical to arrange additional meetings on the side. (The Swedish Ambassador managed to buttonhole Mangula for just long enough to urge him to revive the Secretaries General Committee.) Nobody in the Diplomatic Group doubts that there will be other opportunities to discuss respect for legal electoral procedures with Tanzania's political leaders.

Violence Continues on Zanzibar

15. (U) Sporadic violence persisted as the extended registration period came to a close. The most recent incidents targeted the ruling CCM party. The body of Chande Rashid Saleh, a local CCM agent who had monitored voter registration, was found on April 24, apparently several days after his murder. Police suspected a political motive, but have made no arrests. On April 25, an improvised explosive device damaged the CCM's Mpendae branch office, located in Urban West Region. There were no injuries in the blast. Police made three arrests, including a former member of the Tanzanian People's Defense Forces.

16. (C) These attacks have received relatively little press coverage. While it is likely that they were politically motivated, nobody has blamed the opposition CUF, or anybody else, in print. A CCM MP from Zanzibar, speaking privately to the Charge at Union Day events, also downplayed the Mpendae bombing. This reaction contrasted with the outcry that followed the last outbreak of violence on Zanzibar, a year ago. In March 2004, when a spate of small explosions targeted Zanzibar government officials, several CCM officials loudly accused the CUF party and a fundamentalist Muslim NGO, 'Uamsho.' In this most recent outbreak of political violence, the CCM newspaper 'Uhuru' cautiously hinted at a CUF motive; otherwise, the silence has been deafening.

The CUF Party Announces its Nominees

17. (U) An extraordinary Congress of the opposition CUF party convened on April 25 and nominated the party's Secretary General Seif Sharif Hamad as its candidate for President of Zanzibar, and Party Chairman Ibrahim Lipumba as its candidate for the President of the Union. These nominations came as no surprise to anybody: both party leaders ran for these offices in 1995, and again in 2000. Some anonymous grumblers told the press that if Hamad and Lipumba failed to win office for a third time, they should stand aside and let younger leaders take over the CUF.

The CCM Deliberates over its Nominee for Zanzibar .

18. (C) The race for nominations in the ruling CCM party is much less predictable. Incumbent Zanzibar President Amani Abeid Karume is facing a surprisingly strong challenge in the party from Dr. Mohamed Gharib Bilal. Dr. Bilal, a US trained physicist and a political ally of former Zanzibar president Salmin Amour, is reportedly showing unexpected strength among some CCM stalwarts on Zanzibar. A CCM Special Committee composed of some of the party's most prominent Zanzibari leaders, including Salmin Amour, Vice President Shein, former President Mwinyi, and Presidential candidate Salim Salim convened April 27 to try to reach consensus on the Zanzibar Presidential nomination. This eminent group was unable to make a decision; neither, according to several press reports, was it able to persuade Dr. Bilal to stand aside for the sake of CCM party unity. The CCM's National Executive Committee (the 'other NEC') will take up the question when it convenes on May 3.

. . .and over its Nominee for the Union Presidency

19. (C) These deliberations are just the warm-up for the marathon of negotiation and balloting among the top echelons of the CCM party, which will culminate on the afternoon of May 4. At that time, the CCM Party Congress is scheduled to announce which of the eleven declared candidates will be the ruling party's nominee for the Union Presidency. CCM party luminaries have already gathered in Dodoma for the series of high level committee meetings to nominate the president. First, the 36 member Central Committee will convene on May 2 to select five nominees; the 207 member National Executive Committee will then narrow the choice of nominees down to three. Finally, the 1,800 members of the Party Congress, the party's highest organ, will convene May 4 to make the final choice. Given the overwhelming dominance of the CCM party on the mainland, there is little doubt that the candidate who receives at least 50 percent of the vote in the CCM Party Congress will become the next president of Tanzania.

